

Remarks

Office Action dated February 7, 2005, accepts the revised drawings and finally rejects all claims as anticipated by the US Pat. No. 5,974,579 to Lepejian et al. (herein "the Lepejian patent"). In response, the present timely filed Request for Continued Prosecution and Preliminary Amendment is filed in which claims 1, 7, 13-19, and 20-25 are cancelled, claims 2-6, 8-12 are amended, and claims 26-32 are newly added. Examination and consideration of the claims as amended is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 is rejected as anticipated by the Lepejian patent. In response, claim 1 is cancelled rendering the rejection moot and new independent claim 26 is added to clarify and more concisely define the scope of the claimed invention.

Claims 2-6 are rejected as anticipated by the Lepejian patent. Claims 2-6 are amended to depend from new claim 26. Claims 2-6 are believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons claim 26 is believed to be allowable. Consideration of the claims as amended is respectfully requested.

Claim 7 is rejected as anticipated by the Lepejian patent. In response claim 7 is cancelled rendering the rejection moot and new independent claim 31 is added to clarify and more concisely define the scope of the claimed invention.

Claims 8-12 are rejected as anticipated by the Lepejian patent. Claims 8-12 are amended to depend from new claim 31. Claims 8-12 are believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons claim 31 is believed to be allowable. Consideration of the claims as amended is respectfully requested.

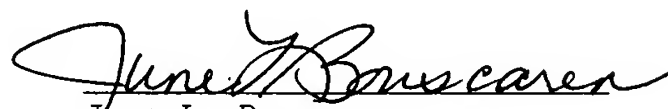
Claims 13-25 are rejected as anticipated by the Lepejian patent. Claims 13-25 are cancelled rendering the rejection moot.

New independent claims 26 and 31 and depending claims 27-30 and 32 are presently added. Basis for all new claims is found in FIGURES 3 and 4 of the drawings and page 9, line 20 through page 14, line 3 of the Specification. Consideration of new claims 26-32 is respectfully requested.

If any clarifications can be made by way of telephonic interview, the Examiner is invited to contact the Undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

Stong et al.
Applicant(s).


June L. Bouscaren
Corporate Counsel
Registration No. 37,928
Attorney for Applicants

Agilent Technologies, Inc.
Legal Dept. DL 432
815 14th St. S.W.
Loveland, CO 80537
Phone: (970) 679-3238
Fax: (970) 679-5772